

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1870-1940
 VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
 Thematic National Register Nomination Inventory Form

Historic Name: Walker's Creek Schoolhouse	Common Name: Walker's Creek Schoolhouse
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 602	VHLC File Number: 07-539
Vicinity of: Newport	Owner: Glenn & Anne Michael
USGS Quad: Augusta Springs 7.5	Box 29, Middlebrook, VA

Date(s): 1850-70	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Schoolhouse	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Dwelling	
Condition: Good	
Altered <u>X</u> ; unaltered <u> </u>	

Physical Description:

This schoolhouse may well be one of the oldest extant school buildings in the County. The rectangular log structure, measuring 22 ft by 26 ft, reflects the form commonly used for one-room schools well into the twentieth century. Two doors pierced the gable end facade, although one has been closed and converted into a window. The large stone chimney on the opposite end also attests to its antebellum date; most post-Civil War schoolhouses had brick stove flues.

The exterior has been altered with a shed addition along one side and a front porch. Inside, the large room was divided when the school was converted into a dwelling.

Statement of Significance:

The Walker's Creek Schoolhouse is significant as one of the oldest surviving schools in the County and as the only known log example. The year after the establishment of the free public school system in 1870, 76 of Augusta County's 115 schools were of log construction. When the County gradually began to build schoolhouses between 1873 and 1890, frame construction was clearly preferred, and many of the older log school buildings were closed. By 1880-81, Augusta County had only 12 log schools; ten years later the number had dropped to 10. The 1885 Atlas of Augusta County reveals that Walker's Creek Schoolhouse was one of the few that had been purchased by the School Board and was in use at that time.

The Augusta County Deed Books confirm that there was already a schoolhouse on this lot when John McChesney sold the one-acre tract to the School Board in February 3, 1873 for \$30. This confirmation makes this one of only two antebellum schoolhouses that have been documented; the other is the Glebe Schoolhouse.

With the consolidation of schools in the Newport area, Walker's Creek School was closed. In 1935, the School Board offered it for sale, but there was no bid. Lacy Van Fossen purchased the lot and building in 1948 for \$155, and it has since been used as a dwelling.

Geographic Data/Acreage: one acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on N side of VA 602 approx. 5,400' NNE of intersection of said route with VA 681; thence extending approx. 150' NNW; thence (continued) Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and the immediate school yard.
 UTM: 17/646450/4208670

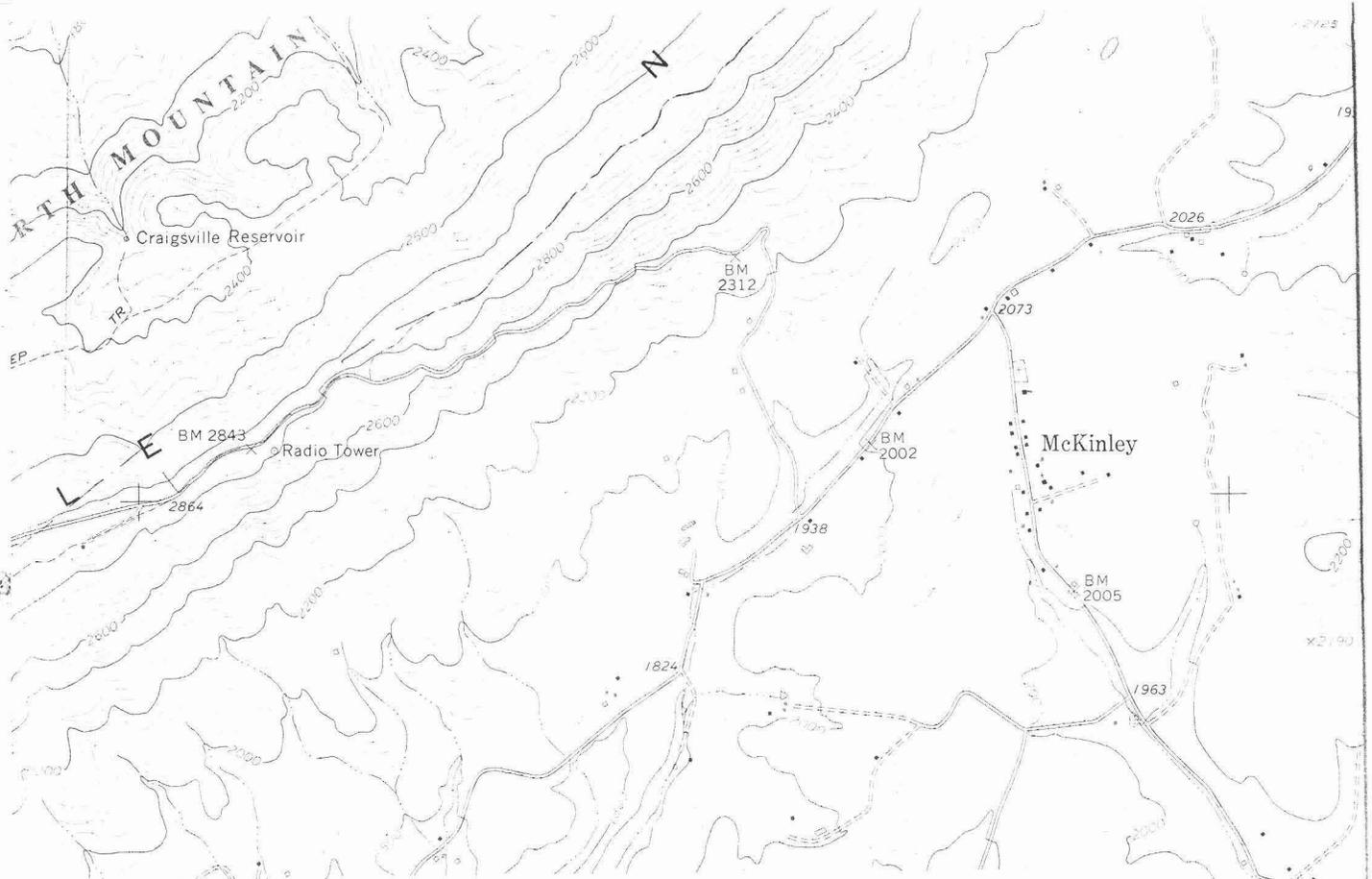
Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Walker's Creek Schoolhouse
07-539

Verbal Boundary Description continued

approx. 200' NE; thence approx. 175' SSE to a point on N side of VA 602; thence approx. 200' SW along N side of VA 602 to point of origin.

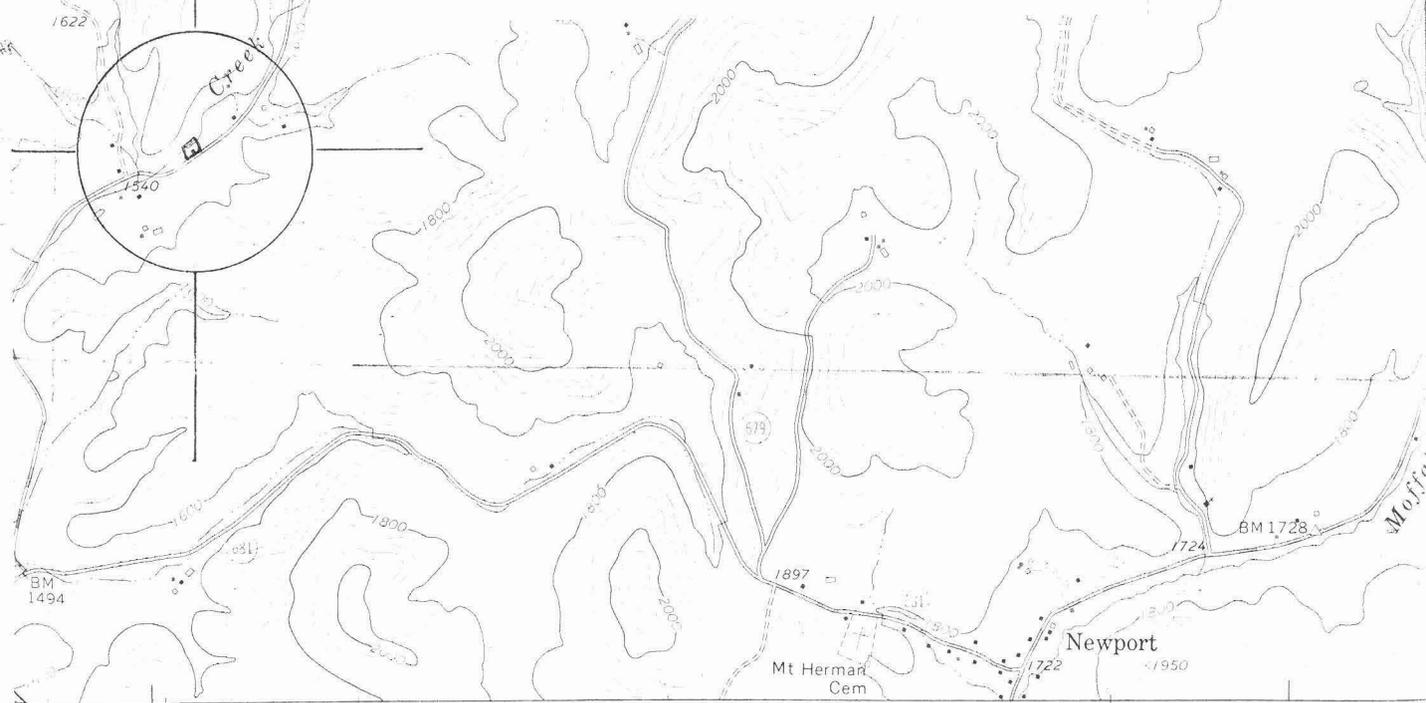
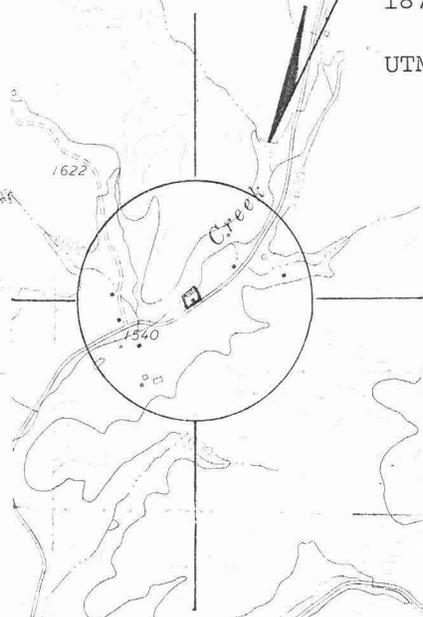


USGS 7.5' quadrangle
 Augusta Springs, VA

(scale:1:24000)
 1967 (PR 1978)

● WALKER'S CREEK SCHOOLHOUSE, Augusta County, VA
 (PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA,
 1870-1940)

UTM References:
 17/646450/4208670



646 20' 647 (BROWNSBURG) 5159 IV NE 649 17'30"

SCALE 1:24 000

